

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children Update
(Ky. Senate Bill 68, 2008 General Assembly)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.730 (codified SB 68)

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Children of military families are subject to frequent changes in schools due to the deployment and activation of a parent in the armed forces. As a result, a child in a military family is more likely to attend multiple schools in multiple states throughout the elementary and secondary years. Students required to transition to different schools over a period of time face numerous obstacles, including non-uniform standards that affect the transfer of student records, course placement, graduation requirements, implementation of individual education plans (IEP) and continuation of gifted and talented services, just to name a few.

The Council of State Governments developed a model “compact” to address these issues facing military families and school districts across the country. The compact provided model language intended to be adopted by at least ten (10) states that would then form a compact of states acting jointly. Kentucky adopted the compact via Senate Bill 68 (attached) in the 2008 General Assembly. On July 17, 2008, Delaware became the tenth state to adopt the compact, thus activating the compact’s requirements in the ten signatory states.

The compact language creates both state and national governing structures to enforce the compact provisions. This includes the creation of a Kentucky state council and a Kentucky compact commissioner. The compact includes provisions that address enrollment, class/grade placement, tuition, extra-curricular activities, exceptional children, and graduation. While many of the compact’s requirements were already best practices in Kentucky school districts, the compact formalizes and requires an easier transition for students in military families who find themselves as new Kentucky students or as former Kentucky students in a new state.

At the October 2008 Kentucky Board of Education meeting, the board asked to hear more detail on SB 68. Thus, Secretary of Education Helen Mountjoy and KDE General Counsel Kevin Brown will appear at the December meeting to provide an update.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Students of military families can better be prepared to get to proficiency if their transition to and from Kentucky school districts are consistent, efficient and fair.

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Commissioner of Education

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